WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

ANNUAL REPORT, 1955.

WIGAN COUNTY HEALTH LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of the
WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Withnell for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The number of live births registered in your District during 1955 is 41, four more than in the previous year, giving a birth rate of 14.5 per 1,000 population.

The number of deaths is 56, an increase of 24 on the previous year's figure. The rate per 1,000 is 19.8. This increase was due mainly to a greater number of deaths from heart disease in its various forms, 35 deaths in all being attributable to this cause.

It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths connected with child birth or of infants under one year of age during 1955.

The number of notifications of infectious disease during the year was very small and there were no outbreaks of notifiable infectious disease.

Unfortunately no further progress was made with the scheme for the more efficient treatment of water supplies during the year under review, However, the drinking water continues to be maintained in a satisfactory position.

The return requested by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act showed that, provisionally, 65 houses in the District were totally unfit and would require demolition during the next five years. Efforts are being made to acquire land for building purposes to rehouse families affected by this clearance programme.

Improvements and repairs to Brinscall Sewage Works have been carried out, and these together with further improvements in 1956 will enable the greater part of Withnell Sewage to be diverted to the Brinscall Works. This will give much-needed relief to the Abbey Village Works.

Other matters regarding the Sanitary Circumstances are dealt with in the Report and require no special comments by me.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members for the kind consideration given to Dr. Doherty and myself at all times.

My thanks are also due to the Officers of the Council for their willing co-operations.

J. WALKER.

Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

SECTION A.

The area of the district is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 Census was 3,040. For 1955 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,830.

The rateable value was £14,260 and a penny rate produced £52.

The chief industries are Paper Making, Quarrying, and a Saw Mill and Cotton Mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total
1. LIVE BIRTHS.			
Legitimate	19	21	40
Illegitimate	NIL	1	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude 14.5
Adjusted 16.2

2. STILL BIRTHS.			
Legitimate	NIL	2	2
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Births 47

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total.
1. ALLCAUSES	36	20	56

Death Rate per 1,00 estimated population Crude 19.8
Adjusted 19.4

2. RESPIRATORY.T.B.	NIL	NIL	NIL

Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.71

3. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.	4	1	5

RATE per 1,000 estimated population 1.77

4. MATERNAL MORTALITY. Pregnancy, childbirth. abortion		NIL	NIL

Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Births NIL.

5. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

a. Under one year Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

Rate per 1,000 LIVE Births NIL.

b. Under Four Weeks Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	nil	NIL

Rate per 1,000 LIVE Births NIL.

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

BIRTHS 1.12

DEATHS 0.98

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS
(CRUDE RATES)

YEAR	Live births		Deaths all - causes		Still-births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total (under 1 year)		Neo-Natal (under 4 weeks)	
	No. Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	No. Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Population.
1955	41	14.5	56	19.5	2	47	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1954	37	13.0	32	11.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1953	32	11.3	34	12.1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	31	NIL	NIL
1952	44	15.6	35	12.4	1	22	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1951	40	14.1	53	18.7	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	BIL
1950	51	17.8	41	14.3	1	19	NIL	NIL	3	59	2	39

ADJUSTED Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.12) 16.2 per 1,000

ADJUSTED Death Rate (comparability factor 0.98) 19.4 per 1,000.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30288071

ANALYSIS OF CAUSE OF DEATH.

Cause	Male	Female	Total.
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	0	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	2	0	2
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1	3
16. Diabetes	1	2	3
17. Vascular Les ons of Nervous System	9	7	16
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	3	0	3
19. Hypertensions with Heart Disease	2	0	2
20. Other Heart Disease	5	5	10
21 Other Circulatory Disease	3	1	4
22. Influenza	1	0	1
25. Bronchitis	1	2	3
27. Gastric Enteritis & Diarrhoea	0	1	1
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	0	1	1
32. Other Defined - Ill-Defined Diseases	2	1	3
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
35. Suicide	1	0	1
All Causes	36	20	56

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health:- J. Walker, M.B., C.H.B., L.D.S., D.P.H., D.P.D.,

Other Public Appointments.

M.O.H. Chorley Borough.
M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C.
M.O.H. Longridge U.D.C.
M.O.H. Preston R. D.C.
Divisional Medical Officer of Health Division No.4.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:- Reginald Barker Hall, a part time officer holding the appointment of Surveyor.

Remuneration

No other Public Health Officers held office during 1955.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary was available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious disease and for pathological specimens for ordinary disease.

Similar use of this laboratory was made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, water and ice cream etc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Provided by the Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service (Chorley Depot) - Telephone Chorley 2744.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is one District Nurse practising in the area. She is Nurse M. Anderson, 12, Queen's Way, Brinscall Nr. Chorley.

TREATMENT CLINIC FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The "Minor Ailment" Clinic is held at 20, St.Thomas's Road, Chorley each Monday at 10.30 a.m.
Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental and Eye etc.) are held at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist Status. Attendances by appointment via School, Medical Staff.

CHEST CLINIC.

The Chest Clinic is at 34, St.Thomas's Road, Chorley, The Chest Physician attends each Tuesday at 10 a.m. This Clinic is a consultant Clinic for all chest conditions.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

Held at Chorley and District Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and Bolton Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

For non-infectious cases - Chorley and District Hospital, Preston Infirmary, Blackburn Royal Infirmary and Charoe Green.

For infectious cases - Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.

Smallpox - Smallpox Hospital at Ainsworth, Nr. Bury.

Tuberculosis - Sanitorium (50 beds at Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock) All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

These Services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

Domiciliary Facilities.

There is one District Nurse, Midwife, Miss. M. Anderton, 12, Queen's Way, Brinscall, Nr.Chorley Telephone Brinscall 227 employed by the Lancashire County Council practising in this area.

Ante-Natal Clinics & Post Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are held on Fridays (at 10 a.m.) at 2-4 St.Thomas's Road Chorley. They are attended by a consultant obstetrician. No appointment is necessary for the first visit.

Maternity Beds.

The available accommodation at Chorley is as follows:-
Chorley and District Hospital.
Eaves Lane Hospital Chorley.

Child Welfare Centres.

A child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly (Tuesdays 2-4 p.m.) at the Withnell Conservative Club, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer (Dr. J. Doherty) of the Lancashire County Council as well as the County Health Visitor.
Ministry of Food Welfare Foods and other propriety baby foods may be obtained at this clinic.

Health Visitors.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Nurse Lamb who is available to give advice on all the County Health and Welfare Services. She may consulted through the Divisional Office, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone Preston 77265).

Home Helps.

A Home Help Service in cases of Sickness, Maternity or Old Age is available in the area. Applications for Home Helps should be made to the Divisional Health Office, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone Preston 77265).

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was:-

Types of Tuberculosis.	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951.
Respiratory	16	16	16	16	18
Non Respiratory.	NIL	2	5	4	7

There were no primary notifications (Respiratory) in 1954 and one Death.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1955.

Age.Period Years.	New Case				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Joint Hospital at Heath Charnock.

Smallpox cases - there were none - would be admitted to the Linsworth Hospital at Bury.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Deaths	Removal to Hospital
	Total all ages	Age period - Years												
		0 - 1	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	65		
Small pox	NIL													
Scarlet Fever	4			1	2	1								
Diptheria	NIL													
Measles	2				2									
Whooping Cough	1			1										
Acute pneumonia	2			1					1					
Erysipelas	1										1			
Puerperal pyrexia	NIL													
Poliomyelitis	NIL													
Meningococial Infection	NIL													
Totals	10			3	4	1			1		1			

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Production.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 inspection and supervision of milk production is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Local Authority is responsible for the cleanliness and safety of Milk Retailed in the district. Five samples were taken and were satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods.

All meat during the year came from the Central Depot in Blackburn until restrictions ceased. Meat is now brought direct as there is no private slaughterhouse in the district.

Tinned meat, fruit and vegetables were inspected and in cases where necessary were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation. No Statutory action was necessary.

Ice Cream.

No samples of Ice Cream were taken for analysis under the Ice Cream(Heat Treatment) Regulations.

Bakehouses.

Five bakehouses exist, and were in good condition during the year.

Water Supply.

The supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water)

928 dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2,770 persons are supplied with this water.

15 bacteriological examinations of water were made in the year of these 12 were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory. Proposed scheme for the installation of Micro-strainer and chlorinator submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government which has been approved in principal.

A further 30 dwellings houses - estimated population 90 - obtain their water from private supplies, There were three reports of unsatisfactory private water supplies during 1955. The matter has been cleared.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two sewage disposal Works with settlement tanks and sprinkler and one Works with settlement tanks and contact beds, the effluent being dealt with by land irrigation. The only areas without proper drainage systems are isolated farms and premises which are a considerable distance from any sewer.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1955.

Privy Middens	None
Pail Closets	96
Dry Ashpits	1
Moveable Ashbine	904
Waste Water Closets	36
Fresh Water Closets	845
Houses on Water carriage system	881

During the year 19 Closets were converted to Fresh Water Closets The onus for the satisfactory maintainance of drains and closets is on the owners and such work is not undertaken by the Local Authority.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry, and disposed of by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspections.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 78 and 24 found to be defective, 22 of these were abated and 24 informal notices were served. No statutory Notices were served, and there were no legal proceedings.

Housing and Housing Conditions.

Mainly due to the high costs of repairs in relation to the market value of the property (mostly old), difficulty is being experienced in administering the relevant sections of the Housing and Public Health Act,

The main type of house in the area is the cottage type built in rows with either four or five habitable rooms.
The main defects are defective walls, roofs, gutters, spouts and windows.
Overcrowding is mainly due to lodgers.

There are five inhabited back to back houses. There are no inhabited back to earth houses.

Factories and Workshops.

General supervision was exercised over the sanitary conveniences and hygiene of the twenty two factories and five "other premises" registered with the Local Authority. Twenty inspections were made; Two smoke observations were made and were satisfactory.

Swimming Baths and Pool

The Council owns the Public Baths. The plunge is 75 feet by 25 feet. Slipper baths are also available. There are no privately owned baths.
Daily tests are taken to ensure that the water is efficiently chlorinated Three samples were taken in bacteriological anatysis and found to be satisfactory.

Clean Food Campaign.

35 inspections of food premises were made during the year. Defects discovered were remedied by voluntary actions.

HOUSING ACT, 1949. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS etc.

Action during year	Private Individuals		Local Authorities.	
	No. of schemes	no. of Dwellings affected	No. of scheme	No. of Dwellings affected
a) Submitted by private individuals to L.A.	3	3	-	-
b) Submitted by L.A. to Minister	NIL	-	-	-
c) Finding approved by Minister	NIL	-	-	-
d) Work completed	NIL	-	-	-
e) Additional separate dwellings included in d)	NIL	-	-	-
	NIL	-	-	-

The applications approved were late in the year and were not completed at the year end.

NEW LEGISLATION.

The following legislation relative to the work of Public Health. Departments was enacted during the year.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948.

Allows the importation of certain foods from Hungary and Yugoslavia.

The Slaughter of Animals(Prevention of Cruelty)(Amendment)Regulations,1955.

Provides that requirement to use approved casting pen when slaughtering by Jewish or Mohammedan method applies only to adult cattle,

The Transfer of Functions(Foods and Drugs)Order, 1955.

The principal effect of this order is to re-transfer to the Minister of Health a number of functions under the Public Health Acts.

Mineral Oil in Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

Allows the presence of limited quantities of micro-crystalline wax in chewing gum only,

Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

Prohibiting the use of any name or pictorial device in describing margarine which is suggestive of butter or anything connected with the dairy interest. Any claim that margarine contains milk must be accompanied by a statement of the butter equivalent.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

An Act which repeals and consolidates much of the previous Food and Drugs legislation.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Lays down detailed standards for the conduct of all persons engaged in the food industry; for the protection of food both during manufacture and whilst on sale and increases the structural standard of all premises used for the preparation or sale of food.